

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, please insert the following between lines 4 and 5:

-- The present inventors have made a nanocomposite comprising a diamagnetic core of a material from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, and platinum; a thin layer of magnetic material from the group consisting of iron and cobalt and alloys (including platinum alloys) containing iron and/or cobalt, formed on the diamagnetic core; a passivating layer of diamagnetic material from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum, and copper, and alloys containing these materials, formed on the layer of magnetic material. In a preferred example, the diamagnetic core is made of gold, the magnetic material is made of iron, and the passivating layer is made of gold.--